

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 215639

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHNOM

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PAGE 02 STATE 215639

SUBJECT:NOVEMBER 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. TERRORIST GRENADE IN CROWDED DOWNTOWN PP FISH MARKET KILLS 8, WOUNDS 37 (UPI, NYT; MCARTHUR OF LAT, PHINQ). MILITARY SOURCES REPORT FANK, SUPPORTED BY ARMORED CARS, CLEARS 7-MILE STRETCH OF ROUTE 5 NEAR PP (WP). FANK SPOKESMAN SAYS MEKONG CONVOY OF FOUR TANKERS AND ONE AMMO BARGE ARRIVES AT PP (REUTER).

2. UPI FROM WASHINGTON QUOTES AID AND GAO INVESTIGATORS IN TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE GOVT. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE THAT EMBASSY VIENTIANE COULD NOT ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN \$1.5 MILLION OF WAR SURPLUS PROPERTY OUT OF \$1.9 MILLION WORTH REQUISITIONED FOR LAOS FROM MILITARY STOCKPILES IN THAILAND, AND THAT EMBASSY HIRED ALMOST 1,000 PEOPLE AFTER CONGRESS WAS TOLD IT NEEDED ONLY 84 EMPLOYEES TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS.

3. UPI (NYT, NYDN) FROM SAIGON REPORTS THIEU'S TV SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID THAT ALMOST ONE YEAR OF "SO-CALLED C-F" HAS NOT ENDED WAR AND ALMOST 50,000 KILLED SINCE LAST JANUARY. SAID COMMUNIST FORCES PREPARING FOR NEW OFFENSIVE, ACCUSED REST OF WORLD OF BEING NAIVE IN

ACCEPTING COMMUNIST STATEMENT THAT THEY ARE OBEYING C-F. SAID NVN HAD BROUGHT IN "MORE THAN 300 THOUSAND" TROOPS. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO AID-REDUCTION ATTEMPTS IN WASHINGTON, THIEU CALLED ON PEOPLE TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT WITHIN TWO YEARS WITH PRIORITY ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIEU SPEECH FOLLOWED GVN REPORT THAT THREE NVA DIVISIONS THAT PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN LAST YEAR'S OFFENSIVE HAD RETURNED TO SAIGON REGION FROM CAMBODIA AFTER REFITTING AND RESUPPLY. RENEWED THREAT TO SAIGON THOUGHT TO BE REASON FOR MAJOR SHUFFLE IN MILITARY COMMANDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPITAL'S PROTECTION (ALSO CSM, WP). AP FROM SAIGON QUOTES THIEU SPEECH THAT C-F HAS BEEN BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT, THAT PROSPECTS FOR LASTING PEACE HAVE ALL BUT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 215639

DISAPPEARED, AND HIS ACCUSATIONS THAT WESTERN WORLD SHUTTING ITS EYES TO PLIGHT AND SACRIFICING SVN TO COMMUNISTS. REUTER ADDS THAT THIEU PAINTED GLOOMY PICTURE, ANTICIPATED ATTACK AT END OF THIS YEAR OR BEGINNING OF NEXT, WARNED PEOPLE OF DIFFICULTY AHEAD AND THAT TASK OF BUILDING STRONG POSTWAR ECONOMY WOULD BE HAMPERED BY CONTINUED COMMUNIST SABOTAGE AS WELL AS HEAVY DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

4. SVN CELEBRATES NOV. 1 NATIONAL DAY WITH TIGHTENED SECURITY, MINIMUM OF CEREMONY (FOR ECONOMY) AND NO REPORTED VC DISRUPTIVE ATTEMPTS (REUTER).

5. LAT'S MCARTHUR WRITES FROM SAIGON OF OMINOUS SIGNS,

SERIOUS BELIEF OF SOME US EXPERTS THAT NEW FULL-SCALE WAS POSSIBLE. SAYS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT ONLY RESUMPTION OF HEAVY US BOMBING COULD STEM NEW OFFENSIVE. BUILDUP HAS REACHED POINT WHERE HANOI CAN ACT IN DEFIANCE OF USSR AND PRC FOR SOME TIME. THESE CONSIDERATIONS, AMONG OTHERS, PROMPTED RECENT US PROTEST TO DRV. MCARTHUR CHARACTERIZES NOTE AS RESTRAINED CONSIDERING EXTENT OF BUILDUP. POINTS OUT THAT NVN FORCE IN SVN MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER; USSR AND PRC AID STILL ARRIVES IN NVN; ABOUT 6,000 TONS OF MILITARY SUPPLIES ARRIVE PER MONTH AT DONG HA, WITH MORE COMING DOWN HO TRAIL, AND PIPELINES NOW EXTEND FAR SOUTH; 5 ARTY AND 3 TANK REGTS HAVE COME SOUTH SINCE C-F; NVA COMBAT TROOPS IN SVN NOW AT 170,000, EXCLUDING VC; ENOUGH AMMO AND HARDWARE STOCKPILED TO SUSTAIN 1972-TYPE OFFENSIVE FOR ALMOST YEAR; TANKS, ARTY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NOW IN PLACE TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY; SINCE C-F, NVN HAS DOUBLED AIR DEFENSES IN SVN, INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED MISSILES THAT EGYPTIANS USED EFFECTIVELY (PHINQ).

CHINA

6. SPEAKING AT A STATE BANQUET WEDNESDAY, CHOU SAID US AND SOVIET MIDEAST PEACE MOVES ARE AIMED AT GAINING MORE INFLUENCE IN AREA. DECLARED: "SUPERPOWERS ARE NOW UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 215639

TRYING HARD TO IMPOSE THE SOLUTION THEY HAVE CONCOCTED ON THE ARAB AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. EVEN IF THEY MAY APPEAR TO SUCCEED FOR A TIME, THEY ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE" (CSM). NCNA DESCRIBES SOVIET MOVE TO LET MORE JEWS EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL AS "STAB IN THE BACK" OF ARAB PEOPLES, AND DECLARES US CONNIVED AND SUPPORTED SOVIET BY PROVIDING FUNDS TO HELP EMIGRATION. CLAIMS SOVIET INSPIRED BY DESIRE TO CURRY FAVOR WITH US AND OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF MFN TREATMENT (REUTER).

7. WHITLAM ARRIVES IN PEKING FOR FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT (WP).

8. AP (NYDN) TAIPEI SAYS GIMO OBSERVED HIS 86TH BIRTH-DAY WEDNESDAY IN SECLUSION. BUT TAIWAN CELEBRATED WITH PARTIES, FIREWORKS AND MILLION BIRTHDAY CARDS DROPPED BY AIR FORCE. SAYS CHIANG "REPORTEDLY" REMAINS IN REASONABLY GOOD HEALTH AND IS ALERT. NOTES PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY GREETINGS. CHITRIB ITEM SAYS, "WHILE NIXON WAS SAYING HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CHIANG, HIS HEART MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN IT." PRES. AND HAK "HAVE BEEN WOOING CHIANG'S ARCH ENEMIES RULING THE MAINLAND."

JAPAN

9. REUTER'S SATO, IN TOKYO, REPORTS JAPAN "DRASTICALLY" RAISED OFFICIAL PRICE OF DOLLAR THURSDAY TO EASE PRESSURE ON FLOATING YEN, AND THAT GOJ OFFICIALS SAY RIGOROUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS MAY ALSO BE LIFTED.

10. JAPANESE SHIPPING COMPANIES WAIT ANXIOUSLY TO SEE WHETHER ALL SEVEN MAJOR LOCAL DOCKWORKER UNIONS WILL AGREE TO JOIN IN REFUSAL TO HANDLE ALL CONTAINER CARGO SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THURSDAY MORNING (JOC). CULLISON SEES JAPAN'S SHIPPING INDUSTRY FACING GRAVE CRISIS AS SEAMEN'S UNION PREPARES HEAVY NEW LIST OF DEMANDS THAT MAY CAUSE WORST WALKOUT IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY NEXT SPRING. QUOTES MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL SAYING THAT IF SEAMEN WIN MOST OF THEIR DEMANDS, COMPETITIVE POSITION OF JAPAN'S MERCHANT MARINE WILL SUFFER DEVASTATING SETBACK IN WORLD SHIPPING MARKET (JOC).
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 215639

11. TOYOTA ANNOUNCES THAT SALES ABROAD IN PAST SIX MONTHS TOTALED 338,125 VEHICLES -- DOWN 3.1 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS SIX-MONTHS. BUT DOMESTIC SALES WERE UP 8 PERCENT (WP).

KOREA

12. ROK FM KIM ANNOUNCES THAT PM KIM WILL VISIT TOKYO FRIDAY TO TALK WITH TANAKA, "EXPRESS REGRET" TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OVER FACT THAT KIM DAE-JUNG KIDNAPPING OCCURED THERE, AND THUS END ROKG-GOJ DIPLOMATIC ROW OVER CASE. FM SAYS TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCLUDED TALKS THURSDAY OVER INCIDENT (REUTER).

13. ROK INFO MINISTER SAYS NK HAS RESUMED HOSTILE BROADCASTS AND IS THREATENING RESORT TO ARMS UNLESS SEOUL ACCEPTS NK REUNIFICATION PLAN (WP).

PHILIPPINES

14. PHIL OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID WEDNESDAY THAT GOP IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF BUYING OIL DIRECTLY FROM MIDEAST COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL -- PRESUMABLY IRAN -- TO MAKE UP FOR REDUCED FLOW FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES. WP ITEM REPORTS MARCOS ORDERS MIDNIGHT-TO-DAWN CURFEW LIFTED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY TO ALLOW FILIPINOS TO HONOR THEIR DEAD.
COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

15. NYT'S MARKHAM IN SAIGON REPORTS THAT RETALIATORY FIGHTING HAS TAKEN ON NEW TONE AND SCALE IN PAST MONTH, AND BOTH SIDES HAVE BECOME ANGRIER IN THEIR ACCUSATIONS. FINDS ICCS STILL UNABLE TO ARREST SPREAD OF FIGHTING,

THIEU DISINTERESTED IN ENGAGING IN THE "POLITICAL STRUGGLE" SUGGESTED BY PARIS AGREEMENT, AND COMMUNISTS, WHILE WILLING TO TRY THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE, UNPREPARED TO ABANDON THEIR MILITARY OPTIONS. OBSERVES UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 215639

THAT WHILE HANOI HAS BEEN TELLING THEIR PEOPLE THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS A GREAT VICTORY FOR PEACE, NVN DRAFT CALLS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE RUNNING ABOVE NORMAL, AND HANOI WATCHERS HAVE NOT DETECTED THE PSYCHIC MOBILIZATION THAT PRECEDED PAST OFFENSIVES, SPECULATION ABOUT NVN OFFENSIVE CENTERS NOT ON "IF" BUT ON "WHEN." NOTES THAT ONE CAN FIND GEOPOLITICALLY MINDED DIPLOMATS WHO BELIEVE THAT HAK HAS IN FACT WORKED OUT UNDERSTANDINGS WITH PEKING AND MOSCOW THAT WILL KEEP FIGHTING BELOW THE ALL-OUT OFFENSIVE LEVEL, BUT OBSERVERS IN SAIGON TEND TO CONSIDER NVN AND VC FAIRLY INDEPENDENT OF THEIR SUPERPOWER SUPPLIERS.

16. NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE (LAT OCT. 31) REPORTS RETURN OF NASECOLOGIST DR. PHILIP ROSS FROM SVN AFTER EXHAUSTIVE STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF CHEMICAL DEFOLIANTS ON LAND AND PEOPLE. ROSS IS COORDINATING A TWO-YEAR NAS STUDY OF EFFECTS OF HERBICIDE SPRAYING IN SVN WITH COMMITTEE OF 17 SCIENTISTS. ROSS SAYS THE MANGROVE FORESTS ARE "COMING BACK"; ALTHOUGH CERTAIN BATTLE-SCARRED AREAS OF SVN "CAN LOOK PRETTY BAD, THE COUNTRY IS STILL A BEAUTIFUL PLACE." SOME DEFOLIATED AREAS RECOVERED IN SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS WHILE OTHERS WERE KILLED PERMANENTLY. THOUGH STUDY WAS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS, SOME PROMINENT SCIENTISTS, NOTABLY ANTHROPOLOGISTS, DECLINED PARTICIPATION BECAUSE OF DOD FUNDING. THEY BELIEVE THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED FOR SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS EARLY NEXT YEAR, MAY BE HELPFUL TO PENTAGON IN PLANNING MORE DEFOLIATION IN VN OR ELSEWHERE, A CONTENTION REJECTED BY ACADEMY OFFICIALS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD FEELING AMONG SCIENTISTS THAT HERBICIDE STUDY IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT - AND CONTROVERSIAL - EVER TACKLED BY THE ACADEMY. FINDINGS ARE LIKELY TO INFLUENCE US POLICY TOWARD CHEMICAL WARFARE FOR YEARS TO COME.

17. FROM TOKYO, LAT'S JAMESON (OCT. 31) REPORTS ISSUANCE OF FINAL, CORRECTED AND CONSIDERABLY CLARIFIED VERSION OF THE TANAKA-KOSYGIN COMMUNIQUE. ISSUANCE

FOLLOWS NUMEROUS WORRIED EXCHANGES BETWEEN MOSCOW AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 215639

TOKYO OVER DISCREPANCIES (WHICH FONOFF PUBLICLY

ACKNOWLEDGED ON OCT. 24) BETWEEN JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN VERSIONS. IN ONE SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE, THE SOVIETS HAD ADDED PHRASEOLOGY - THE CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE NOT REVEALED - WHICH APPARENTLY COMMITTED JAPANESE TO SOMETHING MORE THAN THEY HAD ACTUALLY PROMISED ON COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN RESOURCES. GOJ DEMANDED RETRACTION AND GOT IT OCT. 24. GOJ VERSION STATED THAT JAPAN AND THE USSR HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING JAPANESE FISHERMEN TO PLY THE WATERS AROUND THE FOUR NORTHERN ISLANDS; RUSSIAN VERSION DID NOT MENTION CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT IS NOW INCLUDED. ALL DISCREPANCIES WERE CLEARED UP BY OCT. 29, WHEN HOGEN ANNOUNCED THE RUSSIANS HAD EXNGED NOTES IN MOSCOW "AMENDING" THEIR VERSION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

18. S-N (OCT. 31) NOTES PRESENCE HERE OF MYNAK RIMPOCHE, 27, SIXTH REINCARNATION OF THE FOUNDER OF A TIBETAN MONASTERY WHICH HE HEADED BEFORE THE CHINESE INVASION FORCED HIM OUT IN 1959. NOW DIRECTOR OF BHUTAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM, THE SMITHSONIAN INVITED HIM TO STUDY US MUSEUM TECHNIQUES SO THAT THE SMALL BHUTAN MUSEUM CAN BE MODERNIZED IN TIME FOR THE CORONATION OF 18-YEAR-OLD KING JIGME SINGKI WANGCHUK. MYNAK CONSIDERS HIMSELF A "MODERN TRADITIONALIST"; DISDAINS WESTERN DRESS, ALTHOUGH HE WEARS MOCASSINS; SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, "ONCE FROWNED UPON", AND HAS EVEN LUNCHEDED WITH THE LADIES HERE, A ONCE-FORBIDDEN ACT FOR A CELIBATE MONK.

19. SUN'S ISAACS IN BANGKOK REPORTS ON US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND, CITING "NUMEROUS WELL-INFORMED OFFICIALS" AS INDICATING THAT US GOAL IS TO CUT FROM CURRENT 38,500 TO 32,000-MAN LEVEL MAINTAINED FROM 1969 TO EARLY 1972. FINDS THAT US PRESENCE WAS A NON-ISSUE IN THE STUDENT UPRISING THAT TOPPLED THANOM, AND EARLY STATEMENTS BY NEW GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED IT WOULD NOT SHIFT FAR FROM THE OLD GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, WHICH WAS TO ACCEPT PARTIAL US WITHDRAWAL WITH SIZABLE FORCES BEING RETAINED. ISSUE COULD COME UP IF POLITICAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 215639

PARTIES ARE RESTORED AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNING BEGINS, BUT IT NOW SEEMS OF LITTLE PUBLIC CONCERN. US OFFICIALS DESCRIBE US FORCE AS A "DETERRENT" AGAINST LARGE-SCALE COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF INDOCHINA PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON FURTHER BOMBING, SOME THAIS, NOTABLY THANAT KHOMAN, ADVOCATE ACCELERATED WITHDRAWALS AND QUESTION WHETHER THE DETERRENT IS

REALISTIC. ISAACS NOTES THAT BASES USED BY US TROOPS ARE TECHNICALLY THAI BASES, BUT FOR MOST PRACTICAL

PURPOSES ARE US INSTALLATIONS. REVIEWS DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY NEWSMEN IN COVERING BASES, NAMING THEIR LOCATIONS, AND IN SOME CASES, THEIR FUNCTIONS.

20. CSM'S POND IN SEOUL ASSERTS THAT REASONS FOR KIM DAE JUNG'S UNEXPECTED RELEASE ARE A MYSTERY, AND THE CONSEQUENCES UNPREDICTABLE. RELEASE WAS LOGICAL AS GESTURE TO MOLLIFY THE JAPANESE, BUT JAPANESE CAN HARDLY FEEL SATISFIED SINCE KIM STILL IS INSIDE KOREA AND THE KIDNAPPERS REMAIN UNNAMED. RELEASE CAN'T BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ASCENDANCY OF MODERATES WITHIN THE ROK, SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES; HARDLINER KCIA DIRECTOR LEE HU RAK IS STAYING OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE FOR TIME BEING BUT HAS NOT RESIGNED, AND SOFTLINER PM KIM CHONG PIL DISPLAYS NO NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN POWER. MEANWHILE, KIM DAE JUNG IS TESTING HIS NEW POLITICAL LIMITS IN WAYS THAT A FEW MONTHS AGO WOULD HAVE BEEN INTOLERABLE TO REGIME SO SENSITIVE TO DISSENT. HE NOW HAS REPEATED IN RATHER STRONG LANGUAGE HIS PROTESTS ABOUT LACK OF REAL FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SK. HE HAS VISITED HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL ASSOCIATE IN JAIL, AND HAS BEEN VISITED AT HIS HOME BY YUN PO SUN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF SK, AND PARK SON CHUNG, FORMER OPPOSITION LEADER. FACT THAT KIM WAS NOT KILLED BY HIS KIDNAPPERS AND HAS NOT BEEN JAILED HAS ENCOURAGED OTHERS - STUDENTS AND PRESS - TO TEST THEIR LIMITS IN A WAY THEY HAVE NOT DARED SINCE MARTIAL LAW. POLITICIANS AND EVEN BUSINESSMEN HAVE ALSO GOTTEN INTO THE GAME. BUSINESSMEN REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN LIMITING THEIR TRADITIONAL FALL GIFTS TO CIA AGENTS TO INEXPENSIVE ITEMS. AND SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE

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